

STAND FOR A SURGICAL MICROSCOPE**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application claims priority of the German utility model application 202 18 693.8 filed December 3, 2002 which is incorporated by reference herein.

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention concerns a stand for a surgical microscope of the type having a column and pivot arm mounted on the column by a rotary bearing, wherein there is an electromagnetic brake for blocking the pivoting motion of the pivot arm in the rotary bearing.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The purpose of such stands is to hold a relatively heavy microscope for an operator so that it is movable with as little resistance as possible. The joints or bearings need to be made as resistance-free as possible so as to present the user with as little resistance as possible when moving the stand or the stand arms.

15 [0004] If these stands are positioned on uneven floors or if torques on the stand occur as a result of changes in loads, the relevant moving parts of the stand, in particular the stand arm, exhibit a drift behavior in the unbraked state. "Drift behavior" is to be understood as lateral pivoting motions about a rotation axis, or tendencies toward such pivoting motions, by the carrier arm, which are undesirable for the user.

20 [0005] Drift can occur with ceiling mounts as well. It results whenever deflections occur as a result of limited rigidity of one of the horizontal stand arms, and further horizontally arranged arms or components are pivotably mounted on that stand arm.

25 [0006] In surgical microscopes, drifting of the stand arms about an axis is prevented by way of an electromagnetic brake. When this brake is released, however, in order to displace the stand or the microscope arranged on the stand, the

moving parts of the stand can drift and the operator must exert a corresponding amount of force in order to stop that drift.

[0007] A stand for a surgical microscope having an electromagnetic brake is known from DE 101 23 166 A1. In order to optimize drift behavior when the brake is released, provision is made in the context of this stand for each individual pivot axis automatically to be held perpendicular by way of a complex mechanism. This mechanism has proven successful in practice, but its production is complex and correspondingly expensive. Especially in the case of stands for surgical microscopes which, because of their utilization, are pivoted over only very small ranges (as is the case, for example, with stands for ophthalmology), lesser requirements are imposed in terms of absence of drift in the stand.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] It is therefore the object of the invention to develop a stand of the aforesaid kind in such a way that when the electromagnetic brake is released, drifting of the stand is prevented using simple means.

[0009] The invention is characterized in that a stand of the species for a surgical microscope is equipped with an additional mechanical brake. The braking force is manually adjustable and acts directly on the pivot arm in the rotary bearing. The result is that an individual adaptation of the braking force can be accomplished depending on the severity of the drift that is occurring.

[0010] In a further embodiment of the invention, provision is made for the mechanical brake to be equipped with a resiliently preloaded pin and a brake pad. The pin is on the one side joined to the brake pad, and on the other side the spring element is associated with the pin.

[0011] In a further embodiment of the invention, the pin is mounted in a hollow stem, and the spring tension is adjustable by way of a set screw that can be screwed into the hollow stem. The spring pre-tension can be varied, and the braking force thus modified, by moving the set screw.

- [0012] In a further embodiment of the invention, a cup spring packet made up of several cup springs arranged one above another is provided in the hollow stem.
- [0013] In a further embodiment of the invention, the hollow stem is arranged in a flange of the rotary bearing. The flange has, on the side facing toward the pivot arm, a recess for reception of the brake pad. This results in accurately fitted guidance of the pivot arm in the rotary bearing.
- [0014] It has proven to be advantageous to manufacture the brake pad from bronze, in order to prevent noise upon movement of the pivot arm in the rotary bearing.
- [0015] In a further embodiment of the invention, the brake pad is equipped with at least one curved surface in order to achieve an optimized braking effect.
- [0016] It has proven to be advantageous to configure the surface of the brake pad associated with the pivot arm in concave fashion. The radius of the surface can be adapted to the radius of a tubular pivot arm.
- [0017] In a further embodiment of the invention, the stand is embodied either as a floor stand or as a ceiling mount.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] The invention will be depicted and described in an exemplary embodiment with reference to the schematic drawings, in which:

- FIG. 1 is a view of the stand;
- FIG. 2 shows a portion of FIG. 1 with a pivot arm and a rotary bearing;
- FIG. 3 shows a section through the pivot arm and the rotary bearing; and
- FIG. 4 is a section through a hollow stem.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- [0019] FIG. 1 shows a stand 3 for a surgical microscope, having a stand foot 2, a stand column 1, and a microscope mount 17 for a surgical microscope (not depicted).

[0020] Stand column 1 is equipped with a vertical rotary bearing 4 in which a pivot arm 5 is rotatably mounted. A counterweight 16 is arranged on stand column 1 as compensation for the weight of pivot arm 5.

[0021] An electromagnetic brake 6, with which the movement of pivot arm 5 in rotary bearing 4 can be blocked, is associated with vertical rotary bearing 4. Additionally provided on stand column 1 is a flange 13 into which a hollow stem 10 of an additional mechanical brake 7 is threaded.

[0022] FIG. 2 shows an enlarged portion of FIG. 1 with rotary bearing 4 and hollow stem 10 that is threaded into flange 13. A set screw 11 is threaded onto the end of hollow stem 10.

[0023] FIG. 3 shows a section through vertical rotary bearing 4 with flange 13 and with pivot arm 5 rotatably mounted therein. Mechanical brake 7 comprises hollow stem 10 threaded into flange 13.

[0024] Hollow stem 10 is equipped in its interior with a pin 8 that is joined to a brake pad 9. Brake pad 9 is provided in a recess 14 in flange 13, and has a curved surface 15. The radius of this surface 15 is adapted to the radius of the tubular pivot arm 5.

[0025] FIG. 4 shows a section through hollow stem 10 which carries pin 8 in its interior. A cup spring packet 12 is arranged between pin 8 and the threaded-in set screw 11.

[0026] When set screw 11 is screwed in, cup spring packet 12 is compressed and force is transferred to pin 8. The latter's other end acts directly on brake pad 9 (FIG. 3) and thus on pivot arm 5 (FIG. 3).

[0027] Any drift of pivot arm 5 about the rotation axis of vertical rotary bearing 4 that occurs when electromagnetic brake 6 is released can be compensated by simply screwing set screw 11 into hollow stem 10.

PARTS LIST

- 1 Stand column
- 2 Stand foot

- 3 Stand
- 4 Vertical rotary bearing
- 5 Pivot arm
- 6 Electromagnetic brake
- 5 7 Mechanical brake
- 8 Pin
- 9 Brake shoe
- 10 Hollow stem
- 11 Set screw
- 10 12 Cup spring packet
- 13 Flange
- 14 Recess
- 15 Curved surface of (9)
- 16 Counterweight
- 15 17 Microscope mount